



## FISCAL MEMORANDUM

### HB 1913 - SB 1866

March 1, 2022

**SUMMARY OF BILL AS AMENDED (014365):** Authorizes the Department of Correction (DOC) to dispose of the body of an unclaimed inmate by cremation. Adds the county medical examiner or the state chief medical examiner to the list the warden is required to notify when an inmate dies in the penitentiary.

### FISCAL IMPACT OF BILL AS AMENDED:

#### NOT SIGNIFICANT

Assumptions for the bill as amended:

- Pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 41-21-221(b), if the body of an inmate who has died in the penitentiary is not applied for by friends of the deceased, nor for medical and surgical science under the provisions of the law, within a convenient time after the examination, the warden is required to have the body decently interred in the burying place provided for the penitentiary.
- Pursuant to § 41-21-221(a), whenever any inmate dies in the penitentiary, the warden is required to notify the Commissioner of DOC, if practicable, and summon at least one licensed physician of the county of the prison to examine the body of the deceased.
- The proposed legislation adds the county medical examiner or the state chief medical examiner to the list the warden is required to notify when an inmate dies in the penitentiary.
- Passage of the proposed legislation authorizes the DOC to dispose of the body of an unclaimed inmate by cremation.
- The proposed authorization of alternative means of unclaimed body disposition will not significantly impact DOC expenditures.

### CERTIFICATION:

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Krista Lee Carsner, Executive Director

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